

Message Text

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INFO RUQMNI/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 6961

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046675

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 2556 ACTION SECSTATE INFO OSLO,
BRUSSELS AND DAKAR FEB 14.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, US, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IMPACT OF MLS ON US-UK RELATIONS; FAA
DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING INFORMATION

1. ASST. DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN OFFICE'S (FCO'S) DIVISION
OF MARITIME, AVIATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
(GOODENOUGH) APPROACHED CIVAIR ATTACHE INFORMALLY FEB. 8
(IN CONTEXT OF US-UK CHARTER TALKS) TO EXPRESS FOREIGN
OFFICE'S CONCERN THAT DISPUTE OVER MLS NOT CAUSE WIDER
HARM TO US-UK RELATIONS. NOTING THAT IT APPEARS THAT BA
FEELING EXISTS BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS MOST CLOSELY
INVOLVED ON BOTH SIDES, HE COMMENTED THAT FCO IS ENSURING
THAT BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE IS PRESENT AT ALL
INTERNATIONAL MLS FIELD TESTS, NOT ONLY TO HAVE AN
INDEPENDENT VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENS, BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THA
CAA PERSONNEL BEHAVE THEMSELVES. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AT
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KRISTIANSAND BRITISH EMBASSY REP WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN
DEFUSING POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION.

2. CIVAIR ATTACHE RESPONDED THAT EMBASSY HAD SIMILAR
CONCERNS. TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER WITH
FAA REP LONDON, HE INFORMED GOODENOUGH THAT US EMBASSY
(STATE DEPARTMENT) PERSONNEL TOO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT

TEST SITES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING KRISTIANSAND AND BRUSSELS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT, WHILE BRITISH EMBASSY WAS HELPFUL AT KRISTIANSAND, AT BRUSSELS BRITISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE WENBAND-SMITH REPORTEDLY INTERRUPTED FAA BRIEFING BOTH RUDELY AND INACCURATELY AND HAD TO BE PUT RIGHT BY BRITISH MILITARY OFFICER. (GOODENOUGH EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS REPORT.) ATTACHE COMMENTED THAT IN ANY CASE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PERSONNEL FROM EMBASSIES MAINTAIN BROAD OUTLOOK AND AVOID PERSONAL EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONTROVERSY.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT FAA ENGINEERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN LONDON FOR NEARLY A WEEK TO COLLECT INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM BRITISH AT END OF DECEMBER, FIND CAA UNWILLING TO PROVIDE IMPORTANT KINDS OF INFORMATION (SUCH AS SIMULATION RUNS) THAT WERE PROMISED EARLIER, AND THAT FAA HAS IN FACT PROVIDED CAA WITH RESPECT FAA RESEARCH AND TESTING.

4. COMMENT: BURDEN OF GOODENOUGH'S ORIGINAL COMMENTS, THOUGH NOT MADE EXPLICIT, WAS CLEARLY HOPE THAT USG TOO WOULD ENSURE THAT PERSONS HAVING BROADER INTEREST IN US-UK RELATIONS ARE CLOSELY INVOLVED IN DETERMINING AND MONITORING US ACTIONS IN MLS FIELD. KNOWLEDGE THAT US EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN (AND ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO BE) INVOLVED WHEN FIELD TESTS ARE CONDUCTED SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REASSURING.

5. SUGGESTED ACTION: (A) FCO'S REPORTED CONCERN THAT MLS COMPETITION TAKE PLACE ON SOUNDEST POSSIBLE SCIENTIFIC FOOTING AND MINIMUM POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO US-UK RELATIONS SUGGESTS THAT INFORMAL APPROACH TO FCO ASKING ITS INTERCESSION WITH CAA TO BRING ABOUT RECIPROCAL WIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION MIGHT BE HELPFUL. UNLESS IT IS ADVISED TO CONTRARY, EMBASSY WILL UNDERTAKE SUCH AN APPROACH.

(B) IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A REPORT THROUGH STATE CHANNELS OF EACH ADDITIONAL FIELD TEST BETWEEN NOW AND ICAO DIVISIONAL MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND NEXT TRSB TEST IS SCHEDULED FOR DAKAR. STREATOR
UNQUOTE VANCE

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